FBIS DAILY REPORT

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MULTINATIONAL MARKETING, EXPORT FIRM INAUGURATED

PY061127 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2148 GMT 4 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 4 Mar (TELAM) -- "Latinequip," a multinational company for the marketing and export of assets made up of the Buenos Aires Province Bank, the Sao Paulo State Bank (Brazil), and the National Financing Company (Mexico), was officially put into operation today through the installation of its board, which is seated in Buenos Aires and which will head the company. The ceremony, held in the Buenos Aires Province Bank, was attended by Argentine President Raul Alfonsin and Colombian President Belisario Betancur, both of whom delivered speeches in which they noted the need to carry out actions aimed at achieving Latin American integration.

The company, with $6 million in initial capital, is made up in equal parts by the aforementioned financial firms. Its board operates on the 6th floor of the Buenos Aires Province Bank annex building located at 108 San Martin Street, Buenos Aires.

Latinequip seeks to promote the marketing of assets, equipment, machinery, parts, components and engineering services produced in Latin America. It also seeks to act as an intermediary in forming financial packages that will allow exports of these assets and in promoting the transfer of technology and of industrial cooperation projects, in addition to establishing joint ventures.

Its top-ranking body is the board of stockholders which is made up of Aldo Ferrer, chairman of the Buenos Aires Provincial Bank, Luiz Carlos Bresser Pereira, chairman of the Bank of the Estado de Sao Paulo; and Gustavo Petricioli, chairman of Mexico's National Financing Company. The executive sector is headed by the board which is made up of Eduardo Bassi (Brazil); Abraham Stein (Argentina); and Eduardo Pereda (Mexico), who are general director, financial director, and commercial director, respectively.

In addition, Latinequip has an advisory consultative council made of Enrique Iglesias [Uruguayan foreign minister and former ECLA executive secretary]; Misael Pastrana Borrero (former Colombian president); and Helio Jaguaribe (Brazilian social investigator and the person who planned the multinational company).

Also present at the ceremony held in the history museum of the Buenos Aires Province Bank were Buenos Aires Governor Alejandro Armendariz, Sao Paulo Governor Franco Montoro, Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, and President of the Argentine Chamber of Deputies Juan Carlos Pugliese.

In his speech, President Alfonsin reasserted the need for all Latin Americans to strive for the integration of the Latin American continent. He said: "Present events, the [word indistinct] we are experiencing, are making everyone aware of the need to end absurd and sterile competition and to immerse ourselves in an undertaking that is beyond the development of one nation."

Alfonsin added that this undertaking encompasses the true identity of Latin America, which has been attacked not only from the economic and financial point of view but also from the political point of view. He noted: "Therefore, we must categorically end our rhetoric and start by changing ourselves, our ways, and our actions so that politicians, diplomats, and technicians may understand that we are confronting the need to continue to exist, to build, and not merely subsist. Alfonsin said that the establishment of this new company is a symbol, an intelligent answer that must go forth, that must be implemented, and that undoubtedly will be successful in its effort to achieve Latin American integration at all levels.

HONDURAS' PAZ BARNICA COMMENTS ON AREA CRISIS

PY061835 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1526 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 6 Mar (TELAM) -- Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica today stated that the talks that President Raul Alfonsin will hold with U.S. President Ronald Reagan will, beyond a doubt, contribute to solving a number of problems of the Latin American countries such as the foreign debt and political issues related to democracy. Paz Barnica, who described President Raul Alfonsin as a world leader of moral standing, stated that Alfonsin will be a good Latin American spokesman in the United States.

The Honduran foreign secretary, who arrived at Jorge Newbery Airport shortly after 1000, was met at the airport by Foreign Ministry officials and by the Honduran ambassador to our country. Speaking to journalists, Paz Barnica stated that there is an awakening in Latin America, a broadening prospect strengthening the democratic system as a type of government, although there are still four or five patches in South America, Central America, and the Caribbean where there are left-wing and right-wing governments that are known to all of us.

Paz Barnica labeled Honduran relations with Argentina as very good. I would say excellent, he stated, adding that these relations are being strengthened by the fact that the two countries have democratic governments chosen by the people.

Paz Barnica stated that he would meet with President Raul Alfonsin and his counterpart Dante Caputo to discuss issues of interest to the two countries and especially to review the Central American situation, which has always been of keen interest to the democratic Argentine Government.

Referring to Central American problems, Paz Barnica stated that Honduras is in a strategic geopolitical situation since it is surrounded by three countries that have ongoing internal conflicts. In El Salvador there is a civil war; in Guatemala there has been an atmosphere of violence for 30 years; and in Nicaragua there is a very violent military and internal political situation, something which leads our country to play a moderating, balancing role, though we would never assume that of a gendarme. Paz Barnica stated that he deems it necessary that an all-inclusive resolution of that crisis be found within the boundaries of the negotiations being held by the Contadora Group.

Concerning reports that armed groups in Honduras are preparing to fight the Nicaraguan Government, Paz Barnica stated that there are 50,000 Salvadoran, Guatemalan, and Nicaraguan refugees in Honduras. The border with Nicaragua is very rugged and several kilometers long, for which reason it is possible that border crossings by people who oppose the Sandinist regime take place without the knowledge of my government. However, similar actions also take place on the Costa Rican border. All this will cease when the Central American crisis is resolved.

MAIN POINTS OF TALKS WITH BRITISH MP'S REVEALED

PY062352 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1250 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Mar (NA) -- According to an unofficial translation of the final report issued at the end of the meeting between the Argentine congressmen and British Mp's held at the University of Maryland in the United States in mid-February to discuss the future of the Malvinas Islands, these legislators discussed "a large number of possible options," such as "shared sovereignty," the "transfer of sovereignty guaranteed by a treaty," and different "forms of leasing."

That final report, which so far has been only partially revealed, is entitled "Propositions Agreed Upon by the Argentine and British Delegations." It contains 12 points and was revealed last night by sources of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The report states that the participants at the international meeting agreed that the situation between Great Britain and Argentina is "unacceptable, mainly because it represents a potential source of conflict," and that one of the conditions for a transition toward peaceful relations is reaching an "agreement to discuss all possible aspects of the future of the islands," which implies the issue of sovereignty.

The "Malvinas-Falklands conference" was held between 18 and 20 February at the University of Maryland. The participants included British and Argentine legislators; an observer of the inhabitants of the islands; members of the Council for the South Atlantic, headquartered in Great Britain; and members of the Argentine Council for International Relations. The Argentine representatives, among others, were: Julio Amoedo, chairman of the Senate Congressional International Relations Committee; Federico Storani, head of the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Relations Committee; and Juan Manuel Casella, a former deputy and former labor minister.

The main points of the final joint report, presented to the Argentine and British Governments, are:

-- A consensus has been reached regarding the current unacceptable situation, mainly because it represents a potential source of conflict, progressive destruction of bilateral relations, and uncertainty for the islands' inhabitants.

-- It has been noted that there will be no progress in the transition toward peaceful relations unless an agreement is reached to discuss all aspects of the future of the islands.

-- The need has been stressed for "good faith" to discuss at the official level all matters related to the restoration of peaceful relations and for holding talks on the future of the Malvinas.

-- The transition process must not be exclusively measures chronologically but also socially, which will lead to the gradual reestablishment of relations among Great Britain, Argentina, and the islanders.

-- A large number of possible options were studied in an attempt to find a solution. These options include: shared sovereignty, the transfer of sovereignty guaranteed by a treaty, and several forms of lease.

-- It has been agreed that the agreement must result from a successful return to peaceful relations.

-- It has been considered that relations between Argentina and the islands would be reestablished in a natural, conscientious and voluntary manner.

-- The main guarantee for this to be achieved normally would be the gradual buildup of confidence between the parties.

-- The participants at the meeting admitted that there is a role for a third party, not to mediate in the ordinary sense, but to facilitate and to participate analytically in the talks and to submit proposals.

-- The participants also feel that there is sufficient good faith and sincerity on both sides to justify immediate action by the two governments, to which a copy of these guidelines has been forwarded.

BORRAS REPORTEDLY RESIGNS OVER ASTIZ CASE

PY061632 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 6 Mar 85 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Defense Minister Raul Borras last night instructed the Armed Forces General Prosecutor to "appeal the decision" of the Armed Forces Supreme Council which earlier decreed the freedom of Navy Lieutenant Alfredo Astiz -- who was indeed freed shortly after midday yesterday once the Armed Forces General Staff had been informed of the military court's ruling -- and requested its "nullification."

Reliable sources said Navy top brass had already ordered Astiz to return to his place of assignment, but following the minister's instructions, nothing could be predicted. At the same time a Defense Ministry spokesman explained that that portfolio is empowered to instruct the Armed Forces prosecutor to appeal council resolutions, such as in this case.

Part of the reason behind Borra's decision seems to stem from a question of authority. Since the Armed Forces Supreme Council organizationally depends on the defense secretariat, its decision should have first been formally communicated to that portfolio -- as is usually the case -- rather than to the Navy Staff Command "both for procedural reasons and for matters of military courtesy." While admitting that the ministry had been told of the decision to free Astiz on Friday, the spokesman said it was only an informal notification.

Borras apparently learned of yesterday's decision from a news agency wire, whereas the Navy Staff Command had been officially notified by the council's president in the morning. But there was apparently much more behind the minister's instructions. According to government sources, immediately after hearing of the council ruling on Friday, Borras called an urgent meeting with the military court judges and asked them to put off the resolution for two or three months in order to avoid the political fallout it would imply right now.

When they said a postponement was practically impossible since the decision had already been written into the court's records and signed, Borras, still according to the sources, asked them to leave and went that same night to the presidential Olivos residence to offer his resignation due to the "failure of the strategy pursued up to now to in the trials of military" charged with human rights abuses and the "need to make a clean break with that policy."

The same sources said that President Raul Alfonsin rejected any possibility of the minister resigning and the two agreed to get together on Saturday to analyze how to reaffirm the government's authority over the military, which in effect led to an update on reorganizing the military command, originally scheduled for later this month. The government also apparently let it be known that if the case against Astiz were not continued, it might order his trial by decree, as in the previous case of retired Army General Ramon Camps and Navy Rear Admiral Ruben Chamorro.

Military Denies Resignation

PY061636 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1515 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 6 Mar (NA) -- Defense Ministry sources today flatly dismissed a report that Defense Minister Raul Borras had submitted his resignation to President Raul Alfonsin upon learning of the decision of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces to release Lieutenant Alfredo Astiz.

According to the report, which it was learned emanated from military sources, Minister Borras was obviously upset by the release of the naval officer, prosecuted for the kidnapping and disappearance of the Swedish-Argentine youth Dagmar Hagelin.

Borras reportedly stated that the decision made by the Supreme Council would compromise the government's position regarding the judgment of former commanders and other retired military leaders for outrages committed in the struggle against subversion.

VICE PRESIDENT SAYS ARMY CHANGES 'NORMAL'

PY061926 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Report from Government House in Buenos Aires]

[Text] Following the weekly meeting with President Raul Alfonsin, Vice President Victor Martinez commented on the changes within the Army Command. He stated that we cannot call these changes a crisis, and added that the president reconfirmed to him that these changes are normal. Of course, all these changes should have been made in December, but are only now being made, he said. The vice president made these remarks in response to criticism by several Buenos Aires newspapers of the changes announced by the Defense Ministry. He also said that the designation of the new chief of the Armed Forces Joint Staff could be delayed.

Regarding the Beagle issue, discussion of which the Justicialist Party is objecting to on 12 March in Congress, Martinez stated: We have always maintained, and I repeat now, that the treaty will be approved, but it deserves a debate with the participation of all party blocs.

NEW ARMY CHIEF RIOS ERENU TO REORGANIZE SERVICE

PY070159 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2342 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Mar (TELAM) -- Army Chief of Staff General Hector Rios Erenu, in a message to the members of his institution, has stressed that we will undertake as soon as possible reorganization of the service in order to achieve an adequate level of operational capability by streamlining the use of personnel and equipment in relation to the available resources. The radiogram, which was addressed to all military and civilian personnel who make up the service, including retired personnel on the occasion of Rios Erenu's assuming command of the service, outlines the guidelines of his command and the future actions of the Army. The radiogram states: I am aware of the historic time that the country is experiencing and of the role that we must play as members of one of the nation's permanent institutions. In the overall context, he indicated that he will seek an effective and integrated action with the Air Force and the Navy, and at the same time he committed his professional military vocation and experience to the achievement of those objectives. He urged all of the Army's members to make their personal effort and unselfish sacrifice to revitalize the example of San Martin and the prestige that the institution has obtained during its long history in the service of the fatherland. Rios Erenu stated that he is very sure that with the help of God we will achieve these objectives.

AIR FORCE ORDERS RETIREMENT OF TWO GENERALS

PY061638 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1616 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Mar (TELAM) -- It was officially reported at noon today that the Air Force General Staff has ordered the termination of duties and retirement of Generals Enrique Ventura and Jose Constanzo. The following is the text of the Air Force communique:

"The Air Force hereby reports that it has ordered the termination of duties and retirement of Brigadier General Enrique Hugo Ventura, commander of the Materiel Department; and of Brigadier General Jose Constanzo, chief of the General Staff First Personnel Department. New appointments will be announced in due time."

Officers Hold Secret Meetings

PY070202 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2133 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Mar (DYN) -- A series of meeting are being held this evening at Air Force headquarters. The meetings presumably are related to the replacement of two high-ranking Air Force officers. Despite the secrecy, it has been learned that the top-ranking officers are meeting, but no other details have been learned.

FORMER JUNTA MEMBERS STRICT CUSTODY MAINTAINED

PY061741 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1344 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 6 Mar (TELAM) -- The federal appellate criminal court has decided to keep Lieutenant General Jorge Rafael Videla, retired; Admiral Emilio Eduardo Massera, retired; Lieutenant General Orlando Ramon Agosti, retired; Lieutenant General Roberto Eduardo Viola, retired; and Admiral Armando Lambruschini, retired, under strict preventive custody. This measure was adopted in connection with 711 cases of human rights violations in which Federal Prosecutor Julio Cesar Strassera has filed charges which are being investigated.

INTEREST RATES, FUEL, FARE PRICES INCREASE

PY011555 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 1 Mar 85 p 1

[Text] (NA) -- The Central Bank last night raised monthly fixed-interest rates two percentage points to 20 percent (savers) and 22 percent (borrowers), while fuel prices rose at midnight an average 23 percent. The premium petrol price was set at $a144 [pesos] and regular petrol at $a132, kerosene at $a52.60 and gas-oil at $a52.80, while fuel-oil went up to $a41. The minimum bus fare went up from $a26 to $a31 while train fares rose 20 percent. The Central Bank also lowered the minimum reserve requirment at state banks by an average 13 percentage points.

The Central Bank announcement and the fuel price increase came after Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille addressed the nation on his economic policy plans.

The hike in fixed-interest rates applies to 30-day terms. Passbook savings rates rose 2.5 percentage points to 19.5 percent monthly.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADORS TO BULGARIA, MEXICO -- Buenos Aires, 4 Feb (TELAM) -- The government of Bulgaria has accepted the appointment of Omar Muhamad Vaquir as new Argentine ambassador to that country. He replaces Miguel Espeche Gil in that post. [Summary] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1521 GMT 4 Feb 85 PY] Buenos Aires, 5 Feb (TELAM) -- The executive branch has appointed Facundo Roberto Suarez as new Argentine ambassador to Mexico. [Excerpt] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1627 GMT 5 Feb 85 PY]

MINEWORKERS STAGE ANOTHER MARCH ON 7 MAR

Police Around Government House

PY062137 Paris AFP in Spanish 2048 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Excerpt] La Paz, 6 Mar (AFP) -- The police and soldiers who are posted in front of Government House and at La Paz main plaza have been reinforced following rumors that indicate that the miners who have arrived from throughout the country may enter that area to demand that the executive branch solve their economic problems.

Several military guard machine gun nests can be seen on the balcony of Government House, and groups of the elite police unit, which specializes in repressing demonstrations and uprisings, have been posted at the intersections of Murillo Plaza.

President Hernan Siles Zuazo is presently meeting with his ministers involved in the economy area and studying the miners' demands, which include the supply of food to the markets, price controls, capitalization of the Mining Corporation of Bolivia [Comibol], and adjustable minimum wage.

Mineworkers Detonate Dynamite

PY062258 La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 2212 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] [Announcer] This is a report from our reporter Omar Velazquez. Go ahead Omar:

[Begin report] [Velazquez] Thank you. Listeners: The miners have decided to stage a march and are currently approaching Murillo Square [where Government House is located]. There is a heavy deployment of Bolivian police. Juan Lechin Oquendo, [COB leader], who is marching at the head of the mineworkers column, has a few comments:

[Lechin] [shouts and chants in background] This is a march to Murillo Square to demand an adjustable minimum wage and demonstrates the displeasure of the workers over the lack of supplies not only for the miners, but also for the people at large.

[Velazquez] Murillo Square is heavily protected by the Bolivian police. How do you plan to enter it?

[Lechin] Let us see what the police reaction will be.

[Velazquez] Let us add that during the entire course of the march, from (Alacanta Zapata), that is, 16th de Julio, Velasco, and Comercio Streets, the mineworkers have been detonating dynamite sticks, causing alarm and panic among passersby in La Paz. [end report]

[Announcer] Thank you for your report, Omar Velazquez. Now we have another report from Government House by reporter Cristian Corrales.

[Begin report] This is Radio Panamericana from Ayacucho Street, just a few steps from Government House, where as I told you earlier, the guard has been doubled. I can see mineworkers marching along Santa Cruz Avenue, and the situation is beginning to look bad here at Murillo Square.

On the upper part of Government House, guards have been posted and the military police have occupied strategic positions in Government House. Their instructions are to protect the capitol at all costs.

Bolivian police have also been doubled at the corners of Murillo Square. They are carrying tear gas grenades, rifles that shoot these grenades, and electric prods.

According to instructions issued by the Interior Ministry and the Bolivian Government, the mineworkers will not be allowed inside Murillo Square.

This is all I can tell you at present. Activities are continuing at the Congress but the post office and the stores and offices near Murillo Square have closed for security reasons. [end report]

Security Measures Continue

PY070117 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] We now have a report from our mobile unite manned by Cristina Corrales.

[Begin reports] Good evening. At this time the (?protective) measures instituted this afternoon after the minworkers decided to march to Murillo Square to protest the government's answer to only three of their demands are still in effect.

As I reported earlier, the mineworkers marched all the way to Murillo Square, but were unable to enter it. The square is cordoned off by Bolivian police and the military police are in charge of security at Government House. The standing order for all these units is that neither the mineworkers' column nor groups of mineworkers can enter Murillo Square.

The plan is to protect the capitol and the Congressional Palace. In order to prevent any confrontation, the government has implemented all sorts of security measures that are still in effect.

It has also been reported that the measures will remain in effect until the government decides that it is time to return to normal. Any march that may take place in the coming hours will not be able to reach Government House, strict security measures will continue. [end report]

Government on Mineworkers' Demands

PY070238 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] At approximately 1400 today, the Bolivian Government issued its answer to the list of petitions submitted by the Trade Union Federation of Bolivian Mineworkers [FSTMB], dealing with only 3 of the 13 or 14 items the miners proposed to the economic team.

The minister of planning and coordination delivered the government's answer which dealt with the items assigned top priority by the government: the supply of staples, salaries, and financial aspects. During a press conference, Planning and Coordination Minister Freddly Justiniano Flores explained the government's answer. [recorded passage indistinct]

According to the minister, the government is ordering the private sector to comply with and extend the agreements on the supply of staples to mineworkers. The restriction to use only 30 percent of the foreign currency generated by the mining sector will no longer apply, nor will there by any restrictions on importing raw materials and spare parts.

Within this framework, efforts will be made to solve the staples shortage problem. Furthermore, executive decrees that clearly outline the possibiltiy of importing 10,000 tons of wheat, 600,000 liters of oil, 1,400 tons of noodles, 1,400 tons of butter, and condensed milk, medicine, and other staples will be taken into account for this emergency period.

Concerning salaries, the government's answer indicated that the government is ready to fulfill all its commitments, but it cannot grant what it does not have. In this regard, no adjustable minimum wage is possible while production declines as a result of strikes and stoppages. [recorded passage indistinct]

Concerning the financial aspects, the government stated that this problem can only be solved through a realistic government policy on the official exchange rate.

As for the other 11 items that the mineworkers brought to the government's attention, the planning and coordination minister stated that the government will answer them in the coming days, providing a detailed outline of the true possibilities for solving the mineworkers' problems.

The government also affirmed that it will continue its extraordinary financing of the Comibol on the basis of production agreements establishing concrete production targets for Comibol and guaranteeing that the government financing will continue.

The government's answer to the miners indicated that while the production cost of Comibol is $9.23 per fine pound of tin, the price of this commodity is $4.90 per fine pound, which means that there is a loss of $4.33 per pound that must be absorbed through inflation, forcing the entire nation to subsidize Comibol and the economies of capitalist powers.

Thus, it is indispensable to launch a nationwide struggle toward better prices for Bolivian raw materials, while moving toward the recovery of the minimum necessary production levels so that the state subsidy of the main Bolivian mining enterprise can be reduced as soon as possible, the document stated.

COB Threatens General Strike

PY070139 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] [Announcer] Reporter Omar Velazquez reports from his mobile unit.

[Begin report] [Velazquez] Thank you. The decision of the Bolivian mineworkers to stage an indefinite general strike may well obtain the support of the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] at tomorrow's national meeting. This is what Juan Lechin Oquendo had to say to all the workers who have gathered at the stadium in La Paz.

[Begin Lechin recording] [Words indistinct] general and indefinite strike. [applause and cheers] We must first find out the position of the rest of our comrades. However, I can tell you in advance, judging from what happened during the march, that the rank and file will [words indistinct] to the mineworkers, they have proven so because when the miners were marching, the (?people) applauded them, demonstrating their affection and respect for the mineworkers.

[Words indistinct] the national meeting, due to the absence of some of the national leaders, the COB Executive Board will declare a nationwide strike. [end recording]

[Velazquez] That was part of Juan Lechin Oquendo's speech to the mineworkers. In addition, it has been decided that 5 or 10 members of each mineworkers union will contact various labor organizations in La Paz in order to arrange marches and rallies which the FSTMB and the COB will organize.

The Bank Workers Union has decided to allocate funds to feed the mineworkers who are staying in La Paz. The COB meeting will be held tomorrow in La Paz at 1400, but if the meeting does not take place, the COB Executive Board will declare a general and indefinite strike throughout the country until the government answers the workers' demands. [end report]

PDC NAMES OSSIO SANJINES PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

PY061936 La Paz Cadena Panameicana in Spanish 1130 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Daniel Quevedo, a Christian Democratic Party [PDC] leader, has stated that the PDC convention has adopted a policy that is more in keeping with Bolivian reality.

[Begin recording] I want to tell the public that our party, the PDC, held its 12th national convention in Santa Cruz last weekend. At the convention, we first named a new national committee that is headed by a president, Comrade Jose Luis Roca.

We also chose our party candidate for the national elections. This choice was hard becasue there was a struggle between two candidates: Comrade Luis Ossio Sanjines and [name indistinct]. Ossio finally won by a considerable margin, and he is therefore our official candidate for the presidency of the Republic. [end recording]

Quevedo also told us that former Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins was invited and attended the PDC convention.

BRIEFS

MINERAL EXPORTS -- The Bolivian Mining and Metallurgy Ministry has reported that Bolivian mineral exports during the first half of 1984 were worth $225,170,362. The mineral exports of the Mining Corporation of Bolivia during the same period reached $57,602,360. The medium-size mines exports reached $29,959,025, and the small size mines exports reached $19,905,400. [Summary] [La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Feb 85 PY]

PDS ELECTS NEW LEADER FROM AMONG DEPUTIES

PY061539 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Report from Brasilia by Carlos Rodrigues]

[Text] Amidst a deep crisis, the Social Democratic Party [PDS] has elected its new leader in the Chamber of Deputies. Deputy Prisco Viana from Bahia, a Maluf supporter, was chosen.

Party President Amaral Peixoto and acting party leader Jorge Arbage tried to postpone the party elections until 19 March but they were unsuccessful because of the lack of an internal agreement.

The PDS finally did meet, clearly showing its internal divisions. Despite Paulo Maluf's efforts and presence, only 70 out of the (?163) PDS deputies showed up at the meeting. Out of the 93 votes cast, Deputy Prisco Viana obtained 46. The other two PDS candidates were Deputy Amaral Peixoto, who obtained 27 votes, and Deputy Santos Filho, who got 20 votes.

Deputy Jorge Arbage, PDS acting leader, said the party will inevitably break up.

[Begin Arbage recording] Yes, it may happen, everything leads us to believe so, since there is a considerable number of congressmen who will not submit to the new elected leadership but who will be under the command of the party president, as it was already decided. This bloc may even count on the leadership's executive vote for [words indistinct] elections and in the negotiations. I want to point out that they are a considerable amount, they amount to [words indistinct] congressmen. Those congressmen who have said or who say that they will not follow the leadership will be able to start contacts (?with) opposition parties, including the Liberal Front which [words indistinct] here in Congress. [end recording]

Newly elected PDS leader Prisco Viana is hopeful of solving the crisis.

[Begin Viana recording] [Words indistinct] I belive that the [word indistinct] parties will still participate, (?thus making) the party strong. [end recording]

Important PDS leaders, including former leader Jorge Arbage, admit that the PDS will lose a lot of congressmen with the next party reform.

POLICE PRESSURE ENDS BUS DRIVERS STRIKE

PY062038 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The strike held by the bus drivers and conductors of the Sao Paulo ABC region [Sao Paulo industrial belt] has ended following police pressure. However, many people in Sao Bernardo and Diadema will not by paying their fares.

[Begin report] The bus drivers and conductors strike ended today. However, the protest is continuing in Sao Bernardo and Diadema, where passengers are not being charged for tickets. This measure may be extended to the other cities of the ABC region.

According to the ABC region bus drivers' union leader, Oswaldo Cruz, the strike ended because of the repressive action carried out by the military and regular police yesterday when they took over the union's officers and detained at least 100 people. Even the union president was arrested, but he was released in the afternoon. However, about 40 persons still remain in detention in Sao Caetano do Sul.

The union leadership has strongly protested the police action, alleging that a strike should only be solved between managers and employees and never with police intervention.

This morning at 1000 the union executive board will meet to discuss if it will summon the union assembly to decide whether to continue the strike, because the strike ended without having obtained any positive results to drivers' demands and without approval of the union assembly. [end report]

Reporter Bahia Filho has just confirmed that the police will continue controlling the strike movement in the ABC region. The government has warned that whoever disturbs public order will suffer the consequences.

[Begin Bahia Filho report] The police will ensure that buses circulate freely by preventing picket lines by bus drivers and conductors and by offering safe working conditions for workers who wish to return to work. This information was provided by Public Safety Secretary Michel (Tenner) after a meeting with the Sao Paulo governor and labor secretary at Bandeirantes Palace.

According to (Tenner), up to the present time the police have been discreetly controlling the movement of the strikers. However, since many bus drivers and conductors have decided to return to work, the police have decided that they will react firmly against any attempt to disturb public order or damage bus company property.

If the strike remains peaceful, the police will continue acting the same as they have been. However, the police will not allow violence by picketers. [end report]

GEN ALMEIDA REPORTEDLY ACCEPTS SNI COMMAND

PY091916 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 9 Feb 85

[Excerpt] General Reynaldo Melo Almeida has accepted the post of the chief of the National Intelligence Service [SNI] under the Tancredo Neves administration. The current SNI chief, Octavio Medeiros, will become chief of the Amazonia military command replacing General Adhemar Machado, who will be nominated as Army chief of staff. This information has been provided by reliable military sources.

ACTING ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF TAKES OFFICE

PY090007 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 8 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Major General Joaquim de Abreu Fonseca today took his office in Brasilia as acting Army chief of staff, replacing General Jose Magalhaes da Silveira, who was transferred to the reserve.

CUADRA ON FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, TERRORIST ACTIONS

PY051528 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2200 GMT 5 Mar 85

[Report by Jose Francisco Contreras from La Moneda Palace]

[Excerpt] Minister Secretary General of Government Francisco Cuadra voiced his appreciation to the Peruvian, Argentine, U.S., Spanish, Ecuadoran, Colombian, Uruguayan, New Zealand, and Italian Governments for their expressions of grief and their offers of material assistance, as in the case of today's offers from Argentina and Peru.

Finally, Minister Cuadra repudiated the actions of groups which have damaged the railroad in Nacimiento and the railroad linking Rucapequen and Chillan. In addition, the Carabineros have deactivated a bomb in the proseuctor's office in Talca. Pamphlets of the Luis Emilio Recabarren organization and the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front have appeared in these places.

In this regard, the secretary general of the government has stated the following:

[Begin recording] Actions like these are obviously not only utterly illegal but they are taking place at a time when the entire citizenry is dedicated to assessing the damage caused by the catastrophe that took place on the night of 3 March.

The government energetically repudiates these actions and shares the concern of the citizenry over the fact that this type of actions is taking place in our country. [end recording]

TYPHUS VACCINATIONS ORDERED IN SAN ANTONIO

PY062356 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Report from San Antonio by Ricardo Orzua]

[Excerpts] The authorities of the destroyed port od San Antonio have ordered the vaccination of all persons between 6 and 18 years of age against typhus because approximately 10,000 residents of this city and neighboring communities have chosen the parks, (?dunes), and hills as their homes. Some are under tents, while others are living in the open, following the earthquake that rocked Chile on 3 March.

The earthquake hit 8.9 degrees on the international 12-point scale in this port. This is the second strongest quake that has affected this port in almost 15 years. A total of 16,000 of the 20,000 houses in San Antonio were either destroyed or damaged. The provincial government today ordered the demolition of more than 50 houses considered hazardous.

SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT AGAINST PRESS CENSORSHIP

PY041435 Paris AFP in Spanish 2241 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] Santiago, 1 Mar (EFE) -- Chilean Supreme Court of Justice President Rafael Retamal today issued a warning that press censorship promotes rumors that may affect peace in the country.

President Pinochet banned six opposition publications and established restrictions on news reports when he imposed the state of siege on 6 November 1984.

In a speech delivered during the inauguration ceremony of the judicial term, Retamal defended the role of the press and its influence on the citizenry. He said that when the press is silenced by self-censorship, by decrees, or by an order from superiors, the emptiness produced by silence causes senseless rumors, flooding the city with messages that are not always peaceful.

Minister of Justice Hugo Rosende was also present at the ceremony and said that the statements made by Retamal are a very personal, but respectable, opinion. However, there are certain public order situations that force the maintenance of restrictions, the minister added.

JOURNALISTS PROTEST ARREST OF PHOTOGRAPHER

PY042351 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1223 GMT 4 Mar 85

[Text] Santiago, 4 Mar (EFE) -- The Chilean National Association of Journalists has asked for international solidarity for a news media photographer whom the Carabineros arrested 1 week ago in Santiago.

The leaders of Chilean journalists issued a public statement protesting the arrest of Gilberto Palacios, who was working for the now closed FORTIN MAPOCHO, arrested while taking pictures of incidents in downtown Santiago. The journalists protested because Palacios' arrest, after the legal period of 5 days had lapsed, was extended for 15 days without any formal charge or trial.

The statement of the journalists recalled a recent remark of Supreme Court President Rafael Retamal who said that when the press is silent, be it because of self-censorship, a decree, or orders from above, the vacuum created by this silence gives rise to the cannibalistic aberration called a rumor which floods the city with messages which are not always those of peace.

The journalists' leaders concluded their statement by calling for international solidarity to obtain the release of Palacios, who has testified in court on the circumstances under which French priest Andre Jarlan was killed.

URBINA LARA DISCUSSES RELEASE FROM NICARAGUA

PA062256 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1850 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Report by (German Villa Sosa), reporter for Colombia's Radio Cadena Nacional and correspondent for Radio Impacto in Bogota]

[Text] The statements made by student Jose Manuel Urbina Lara have had a great impact throughout Colombia. Urbina Lara accused some members of the Sandinist government of forcibly taking him from the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua. He has also charged Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge with offering him 100,000 cordobas to renounce his right to asylum in writing. Urbina Lara said that Minister Borge and Adolfo Perez Esquivel, Argentine Nobel Prize winner, tried to bribe him. He said that the two men offered him 100,000 cordobas to renounce his right to asylum in writing. Urbina Lara made this statement during an exclusive interview with Radio Cadena Nacional.

Urbina Lara, who was released yesterday afternoon by the Sandinist government, arrived in Bogota last night. He said that when he was arrested in Managua, Minister Borge and Perez Esquivel tried to bribe him. He said that he was forcibly taken from the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua when members of the Nicaraguan Army and security corps realized that embassy personnel had left the premises on vacation. Urbina said that Perez Esquivel is an ideologist of Sandinism. Urbina Lara's account of the story follows:

[Begin recording] [Urbina] I requested asylum on 19 August [1984] at the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua. I was constantly persecuted by the Sandinist authorities. I hid from State Security for 3 months. On 24 December, Costa Rican diplomatic personnel were not in Nicaragua but in Costa Rica. I was alone inside the embassy, unarmed, and the Nicaraguan security guard took advantage of this situation and forcibly removed me from the Costa Rican Embassy. Proof of this is that two bullets grazed my left shoulder, my right [word indistinct], and my left calf was ripped open. It has partially healed and I am recovering. This situation goes back a long time. I was sent to prison on orders from the State Security while I was studying at the Central American University, UCA. I was accused of being a member of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance's [ARDE] internal resistance and of practicing [word indistinct]. I was held by State Security for 42 days and during that time I received support from students who presented a petition with 150 signatures requesting my release. The government observed this, and to avoid problems with the law school faculty, I was released. However, I spent Christmas in prison.

[Question] [Words indistinct] member of ARDE?

[Urbina] Yes, I joined ARDE's ranks. When I was released from prison I had no contacts and began to act on my own.

[Question] Did you fight in the mountains?

[Urbina] No, I was involved in student issues.

[Question] Did you ever meet Pastora?

[Urbina] No, never, never, never. I was in Managua. I never left the country.

[Question] How did you operate?

[Urbina] Through contacts. [Words indistinct] I believed and still believe in all of the organizations that are struggling for liberation of my homeland.

[Question] How were you persecuted? What did they do? Who was responsible?

[Urbina] State Security. There were many youths who were also in their fourth year of law school and who, as I, did not agree with the actions of the government or of the Sandinist youth, the repressive organization that the government has within the university. This sometimes led to clashes. One day they tried to shove one of the boys into a truck. They were trying to make us fight in the mountains against our wishes. I told them that this was not the way it is done and I decided to take a group to Limon. While we were there, I was injured -- cut with a machete. I was injured and no one could come to pick me up so we decided to return to Managua. In Managua, we were captured.

[Question] [Words indistinct] return and join Pastora?

[Urbina] No, that was never my plan. I simply told them that what motivated me to struggle was seeing youths suffer.

[Question indistinct]

[Urbina] [Passage indistinct]

[Question] Mr Urbina, you said that you were tortured. What kind of torture did you experience in prison?

[Urbina] I do not know how they were tortured. I can tell you that I [words indistinct] made me cry. [passage indistinct] You can see the marks. I was also made to walk on that foot until the wound bled. There is something else: They wanted to blackmail me. Commander Tomas Borge offered me 100,000 cordobas, my immediate release, a guarantee that the State Security would not harm me, and my fourth year of law school if I would give up my right to asylum. This was offered to me by Tomas Borge and Perez Esquivel, who is called a Nobel Peace Prize winner but who is really a supporter of the Sandinists and visits the Sandinists. He also tried to harass me, but he failed. On the same day, I was taken by Perez Esquivel and Tomas Borge to see a former president of the Socialist International. [Words indistinct] like an ideologist of the Sandinists and began discussing issues that do not concern our country.

[Question] Can you give us the name of the Socialist International leader?

[Urbina] No, but I can say that he was impartial.

[Question] What did Perez Esquivel tell you? What was his proposal?

[Urbina] That we reach an agreement because the Costa Rican authorities had nothing to do with the problem since I was under the Nicaraguan authorities' jurisdiction and that they were the only ones who could solve my problem. He said that I should think about my people before reaching a decision. I asked him if they thought about my people when they forcibly took me from the embassy.

[Question] Please give more details on how you were forcibly taken from the embassy and shot in the back. How did it actually take place?

[Urbina] Well, my family visited every day to bring me food, because that was the agreement between the ambassador and my family.

[Question] The Costa Rican ambassador?

[Urbina] Yes. We reached an agreement and my family visited every day. On 24 December I heard the doorbell ring at approximately 2000 and since it was a holiday, I thought it was my...[rephrases] a relative. However, it was not a relative. It was a woman, a member of the State Security who they said was my girlfriend but I never saw her again. Then, the policeman who was guarding the embassy entered through a window [words indistinct]. That is how they took me from the embassy. I was taken by the woman, who was almost as tall as I am, and the embassy guard. They took me to a car, but it crashed against the embassy fence. I began fighting with the guard and that is when I was shot. I was also shot at when we were at the embassy door. This can be proven because there was a bullet hole, a puddle of blood, and the door's lock was damaged when it was hit by a bullet during the struggle. [Words indistinct] bullet wounded me in the calf. A medical resident [word indistinct] another in the shoulder, and shrapnel in both legs.

[Question] Are you married?

[Urbina] Yes, I am married and have two children.

[Question] How old are they?

[Urbina] One is 1 and 1/2 years old and the other is 2 years and 7 months.

[Question] Have you had any contact with them?

[Urbina] No, no, no. I was able to see my family only once and [words indistinct] like I said before. That is when they told me everything and said there was a possibility I could escape from the claws of [words indistinct].

[Question] Are the letters you received from your family from your wife and children or your parents?

[Urbina] They are from my father, who sent me lots of advice, and my mother. They both live in Managua. All of my relatives -- my wife, children, father, mother, and brothers -- are in Managua. They are in the clutches of that system. Some youths are fighting against their will, depending on their [words indistinct].

Others are in prison because they do not want to fight; and still others are in hiding. However, I was not in hiding. I sought asylum. Housewives and all of the people are being coerced. Everyone has a ration card. If you do not shout their slogans or support the Sandinist government, then the card is taken away and you have no food for your family. The same thing happens when you have a job or are seeking employment. If you are a student, there is an organization called the 19 July Sandinist Youth, which has been created by the government. This is a repressive organization. They carry guns, clubs, and other weapons. They attack any student who opposes them or refuses to support their policy. The student corps are totally repressed, coerced, and controlled. [Passage indistinct] either agree to fight or are sent to jail. When I was in prison I saw thousands of youths who oppose the military service.

[Question] Are you willing to continue fighting against the current regime in Managua regardless of the consequences?

[Urbina] I believe I have been asked that before. At that time, I replied that I am willing to continue fighting for my people regardless of the consequences.

[Question] Did you ever think you would come to Colombia?

[Urbina] I did not know if I would come out of the tunnels.

[Question] You are now in Colombia and seem to have recovered a bit. What do you think of your new situation?

[Urbina] I am enjoying total freedom. I have been treated well by this democratic government and its people. I long to achieve this for my country.

[Question indistinct]

[Urbina] In fact, I stated that when they came to see me while I was recovering from my wounds. I asserted it with tears in my eyes. [Words indistinct] that if a representative of the Costa Rican Government was not present they would never negotiate with me.

[Question] Was anyone present...

[Urbina, interrupting] No, never, never. I saw a Costa Rican delegation only when it came to the ward where I was hospitalized. That was the only time I saw them.

[Question] [Words indistinct] I imagine it includes the usual parental advice.

[Urbina] He gave me the usual advice -- that I should not act with premeditation or [words indistinct].

[Question indistinct]

[Urbina] They are trying to avoid it and escape so they do not have to participate in [words indistinct].

[Question] Are your children in school?

[Urbina] No, they are too young.

[Question] Does your wife work?

[Urbina] Yes, she did work. However, she lost her job because she spent all of her time trying to help me with my problem.

[Question] Where did she work?

[Urbina] In a pastry shop.

[Question] Well, where are you going to live now? Colombia?

[Urbina] I have received offers from many countries, even Italy and Spain. However, I would prefer to live as close as possible to my country so that I can see how I can help the cause.

[Question] Do you have a message for Nicaraguan youths or your friends? Do you remember anyone or any names?

[Urbina] Yes, I remember many names but I do not think it would be wise to mention them.

[Question] What would you tell them?

[Urbina] To follow my example and never -- ever -- give in to the oppressive government. The time will come for them to rebel and that will be the end of that system.

[Question] Do you think you are a hero of the Sandinist youths?

[Urbina] I do not think so.

[Question] What then?

[Urbina] Just an example of rebellion.

[Question indistinct]

[Urbina] Yes, it has been betrayed. All Nicaraguans fought for something good, something new, but they have ended up with something worse. During Somozist times refugees were shown to journalists and the international news media before being taken to a military base. Then, they were taken to an unknown destination.

[Question indistinct]

[Urbina] I was in one of the State Security tunnels. I was given these clothes, they were taken from a poor prisoner and given to me. Only the shoes are mine Then, I was driven away in a jeep to a military base. The military base is located some distance away from the airport.

The airplane arrived at the far end of the military base and there I found Mr D'Escoto, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry official in charge of the Latin American Department, [as heard] and the Colombian ambassador, who brought me here. I had no idea what was taking place, but I could not take my eyes off the airplane. I was only addressed by the Colombian ambassador and talked only to him.

[Question] The Colombian ambassador to Nicaragua?

[Urbina] That is correct. He said: I am the Colombian ambassador to Nicaragua and President Betancur has achieved an agreement so you may go to Colombia. Let's go. I boarded the airplane and arrived here. This was quite painful because I could not see my family and they had no information on my whereabouts.

[Question] Did D'Escoto ...[rephrases] Foreign Minister D'Escoto tell you anything?

[Urbina] No, I did not address him.

[Question] But he [illegible] there...

[Urbina, interrupting] He did not address me either. He did not address me because he knew that I would not address him.

[Question] Were you insulted or mistreated by the other prisoners while you were in the State Security tunnels? Or perhaps...

[Urbina, interrupting] The prisoners? No, the prisoners always offered me their support and said that if I ever left Nicaragua I should tell the world the truth about my country.

[Question] How many prisoners were locked up with you?

[Urbina] We heard that there were approximately (?30,000) prisoners, but there were only about 200 prisoners with me.

[Question] What was the jail like? Can you describe it?

[Urbina] Well, I spent most of my time in the State Security tunnels.

[Question] How are those tunnels built?

[Urbina] They have six walls. There is no ceiling, only walls. There is also a zinc door with a small window through which they give you a plate of rice; that is, handfuls of rice. They give you three handfuls of rice without water or anything else. There is no toilet, only a hole; you empty the tank of water over the hole to wash away your waste.

[Question] What kind of food did they give you?

[Urbina] Three mouthfuls of greasy rice each day; that is all the food we received. We did not see the sun or anything unless they [words indistinct] you. They used psychological torture. For example, the zinc door bangs all night. The banging keeps you awake. Since that is an enclosed area, a person has difficulty breathing. There is also the key ring. A guard carries all of the keys to the prisoners' cells on a ring and he always rattles them, not to mention the usual mistreatment.

[Question] Are you happy with the new life you begin today?

[Urbina] Yes, and I thank the Colombian Government, President Belisario Betancur, and the Colombian people who have welcomed me. I feel very grateful. I also state my heartfelt thanks to President Luis Alberto Monge, the Costa Rican diplomatic mission members accredited in Nicaragua, and the Costa Rican people, who have given me their support at all times. I send them my heartfelt thanks.

[Question] Do you hold the Nicaraguan Government responsible for any reprisal it may take against your family?

[Urbina] Most of the companies in Nicaragua are state-owned. One of my brothers works in the state-owned company, the Nicaraguan Institute of Waterworks and Sewers. They might charge him with a common crime to send him to prison and thus avenge themselves... [rephrases] order reprisals for what I may say or do. [end recording]

GOVERNMENT GRANTS ASYLUM TO SIX NICARAGUANS

PA052248 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 5 Mar 85

[Text] Bogota -- The Colombian Government has granted asylum to six Nicaraguans who arrived at San Andres Island fleeing the Sandinist regime and asking to be taken in.

Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocampo said: We only have to fulfill the corresponding procedures to grant asylum, as we did 2 weeks ago with the Miskito Indians.

He pointed out that each case will be treated individually and by territory; that is, asylum will not be granted on the San Andres Island, but on the mainland, in any part of Colombia.

BETANCUR MEETS WITH DOMINICAN PRESIDENT JORGE

PA061525 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Colombian President Belisario Betancur today praised Dominican President Salvador Jorge Blanco very highly when he received him at the Catam Military Airport. As you arrive here in Colombia, we perceive signs of democracy, and your visit to our country further strengthens the ties of brotherhood that have always characterized us, Betancur said.

The Dominican president said he was pleased to be in Colombia and expressed hope for a viable solution to serious economic problems the two countries are experiencing and to the conflict in Central America.

[Begin Jorge recording] I am aware that this visit is being made during very dramatic moments in the continent. My good friend President Betancur, in your eloquent message you mentioned these dramatic moments, which can be summed up in the fact that it is a crisis affecting our countries due to problems that stem from the foreign debt. [end recording]

The two statesmen are at this moment holding their first formal meeting at the Narino Palace. After the meeting, President Betancur and his wife, Rosa Elena de Betancur, will host a dinner to honor the Dominican president.

BETANCUR SENDS MESSAGE TO BOLIVIA'S SILES

PA060333 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 5 Mar 85

[Text] Bogota -- President Belisario Betancur has reiterated that reactivating the subregional Andean Pact is an unpostponable need and voiced his government's determination to work to that end. In a message to Bolivian head of state Hernan Siles Zuazo, while flying over Bolivian territory on his way back to Bogota, the Colombian head of state pointed out that reactivating the pact is the first step toward restoring democracies in Latin America. This is acknowledged by several leaders on the continent, he said.

In his message Betancur told Siles: Your struggle for the enforcement of republican institutions in Bolivia deserves all of our sympathy and support. He added: Colombia is attentive to anything that happens in the brother Bolivian country. It is permanently ready to cooperate not only at the bilateral level, but via the subregional Andean Pact whose reactivation is an unpostponable necessity.

ATTORNEY GENERAL SAYS TRUCE ALLOWS REARMAMENT

PA060307 Paris AFP in Spanish 1906 GMT 4 Mar 85

[Text] Bogota, 4 Mar (AFP) -- Attorney General Carlos Jimenez Gomez, who accused the guerrillas of taking advantage of the truce to rearm, said the way the peace process is being conducted in Colombia will lead to a "massacre."

The attorney general's warning, which was carried by the local news media, placed the whole country in a state of unrest because of the bluntness of his statements on causes for the outbreak of violence in Colombia, despite the cease-fire signed last year with 90 percent of the extreme left and the nationalist guerrillas.

These statements must be given serious thought, said some observers, because in the past Jimenez Gomez denounced the abuses of the paramilitary organization Death to Kidnappers, MAS. In rightist sectors, this led to statements that he is pro-left.

The attorney general's statements are based on reports from a team of lawyers sent all over the country to interview local authorities and citizens. In particular, the attorney general mentioned the kidnappings, murder, and disappearances of individuals, and attacks on and occupation of towns. Last week, El Bagre, north of Medellin, was occupied by 8,000 peasants. Armed clashes there left eight dead.

Asked if the truce was being used to rearm and prepare for resumption of military actions, the attorney general mentioned the extortion, the voluntary contributions of landowners, and the obligatory recruiting of youths, in other words, the same methods used by the guerrillas and subversive groups before the truce to obtain funds and recruits.

Attorney General Jimenez also accused the subversives of trying to infiltrate the unions to make them "armed branches of ideological agitation."

Finally, Jimenez deplored the objectives of the peace process launched by President Belisario Betancur, stressing that Betancur's generosity and idealism are not clear and do not have a set completion date.

Finally, Attorney General Jimenez said that the truce will be a farce if it serves to give subversion a rest to acquire new strength. He also urged the rebels to end their crimes and rearmament.

Antonio Navarro Wolf, a guerrilla spokesman for the 19 April Movement, was the first to react. He accused the attorney general of representing a minority and demanded he show proof of his accusations.

M-19, EPL, ADO TEMPORARILY WITHDRAW FROM DIALOGUE

PA070159 Paris AFP in Spanish 1713 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] Bogota, 6 Mar (AFP) -- The national dialogue that seeks to consolidate the peace process in Colombia has suffered because three guerrilla organizations that reached an agreement for peace with the Colombian Government in August have withdrawn from the dialogue.

The nationalist 19 April Movement [M-19], the Maoist Popular Liberation Army [EPL], and the Trotskiyist Workers Self-Defense [ADO], announced today their withdrawal from the dialogue they had been holding with President Belisario Betancur's government, but they said that this withdrawal is temporary.

The three organizations warned that they will resume the dialogue only when they receive a satisfactory explanation regarding a document issued by the attorney general accusing the guerrilla organizations of "getting a breath of fresh air" and "rearming."

The document released by the attorney general accusing the guerrillas of violating the truce and peace accords sparked a bitter political dispute at the beginning of this week, and it was supported by the military.

Today, the three guerrilla movements described the attorney general's document as "blackmail" and demanded public satisfaction for its controversial contents on which Betancur's government has remained silent. In addition, political circles feel that the guerrilla's new stance as a result of their withdrawal from the dialogue might make the peace process fail completely. However, Government Minister Jaime Castro said he will meet with the three organizations' spokesmen to settle the latest discrepancies and strengthen the dialogue.

ARMED FORCES WARNS AGAINST FURTHER VIOLENCE

PA061635 Bogota Radio Sutatenza Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] Bogota -- The Armed Forces have warned that they are not willing to withdraw troops from anywhere within the national territory and reiterated that they will not tolerate further outbreaks of violence such as the one that took place in El Bagre.

GUATEMALAN HEAD OF STATE MEJIA ARRIVES

PA061858 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 1255 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Guatemalan Head of State General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores arrived at Quito's Mariscal Sucre Airport on Tuesday from Uruguay, where he attended the inauguration of President Julio Maria Sanguinetti. The Guatemalan leader, who rose to power by virtue of a coup staged about 1 and 1/2 years ago, stated that in Guatemala, military men are not concerned with governing, but with their country's security and expressed his desire that democratic rule be reestablished in that Central American nation. According to General Mejia Victores, the situation in Guatemala is not as critical as elsewhere because the regime possesses a number of unique characteristics. He cited as an example the fact that all ministers and deputy ministers are civilians. He reported that the Guatemalan Constituent Assembly is currently drafting a new constitution, which will be ready by late May, thus hastening the return of democracy.

CULTURAL, ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS WITH GUATEMALA

PA061929 Paris AFP in Spanish 1825 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] Quito, 6 Mar (AFP) -- The foreign ministers of Ecuador and Guatemala, Edgar Teran Teran and Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran respectively, today signed in Quito two bilateral agreements: one on cultural issues and another on economic and technical cooperation.

The two ministers also committed themselves to studying an agreement of limited scope, signed within the framework of ALADI, concerning the "preferential tariffs to promote mutual exports."

The cultural agreement intends to strengthen the bonds of friendship between the two countries and increase relations in the cultural, educational, scientific, and artistic fields. It also calls for an agreement to make medium-level studies whereby titles or diplomas obtained, duly authenticated, and legalized will be valid to continue studies in either of the two countries.

The economic and technical cooperation agreements are intended to encourage scientific and technical research that may contribute to the socioeconomic development of the two countries.

VICE PRESIDENT RETURNS FROM SANGUINETTI INAUGURAL

PA062012 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 Mar 85

[Text] The Ecuadoran vice president arrived here this afternoon after participating in the inauguration of the new democratically elected president of Uruguay. Upon his arrival, he made the following remarks to this station:

[Begin recording -- broadcast in progress] ...Important experience because I participated in such an extraordinary civic event -- the reinstallation of democracy in Uruguay -- and personally met a Latin American of the stature of Julio Maria Sanguinetti. I also heard a very clear message in which he said that the destiny of democracy not only depends on the will of the people who make it up but on the [word indistinct] of those who are in charge of administering the democratic countires, the leaders, as well as the opposition [words indistinct] rational balance which do not jeopardize [words indistinct] a system which not only includes the defense of individual rights [words indistinct] the capacity of creation and the [word indistinct] development. [end recording]

ARGENTINA OPENS MARKETS TO ECUADORAN PRODUCTS

PA061641 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 1255 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] Ricardo Campero, Argentina's foreign trade minister [as heard], and Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Edgar Teran Teran held an important meeting on Tuesday at the Ecuadoran Foreign Ministry in Quito. They discussed the serious economic problems that Latin America is experiencing and trade between Ecuador and Argentina. The ranking Argentine official reported during a news conference that in following his government policies, the Argentine Government will grant Ecuador privileges that will encourage the entry of Ecuadoran products to the Argentine market. He said that the Buenos Aires central market will be open to Ecuadoran produce and will thus save Ecuadoran exporters much in marketing costs. He reported that Argentina is willing to open its sources of supply to encourage Ecuadoran imports. Campero indicated that the export of bananas, coffee, seafood preserves, hearts of palm, balsa wood, Manila hemp, and others presents a favorable outlook.

Ecuador and Argentine also reached agreements on technical cooperation, transportation, and credit that the Argentine Government will grant Ecuador.

STATE PETROLEUM CORPORATION BUDGET APPROVED

PA040215 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 2 Mar 85

[Text] The Ecuadoran Government will arrange for about 6 billion sucres of foreign credit to finance the Ecuadoran State Petroleum Corporation, CEPE, whose budget was reduced by a Finance and Credit Ministry's decree by 10 billion sucres.

Yesterday, the CEPE Board of Directors approved a 53.8 billion sucre budget for the current fiscal year. This figure is lower than the original budget by about 6 billion sucres. The original amount -- 59 billion sucres -- had been proposed by CEPE Manager Solon Espinosa.

The source reported that the foreign financing enables CEPE to fulfill the prospecting, exploitation, and industrialization plans slated for 1985. The source also said that the enterprise will not be decapitalized. In addition, this Decree No 440 will help finance the state's general budget that is being considered by the national congress' permanent legislative commission for tax, fiscal, bank, and budget matters.

APRA LEADER PROPOSES TALKS WITH SHINING PATH

PY061317 Lima Televisora Lima in Spanish 0400 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] Within a few minutes we will have the statements made by American Popular Revolutionary Alliance [APRA] leader Armando Villanueva del Campo.

In an exclusive interview for the program "The 90-Second Special," APRA leader Armando Villanueva del Campo on 5 March talked about politics and the developments in the political campaign. The interview follows:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Mr Villanueva del Campo, to the disbelief of many, you have again raised the need for talks with the Shining Path. Have you already thought of some way to make such talks viable?

[Villanueva del Campo] This question has not been raised just recently, nor has it been exclusively raised by me. After I made the proposal in late 1982 and in March 1983, in an interview held in Madrid with the publisher of a local magazine, Dr Cavero Egusquiza, the national attorney general, appropriated this initiative for himself. Even more significant to me is that His Holiness the pope has stated that talks must be held among all sectors and sharply called attention to crime and terrorism as criminal expressions.

I believe that democracy, and I am a democrat, can never give up on dialogue. We democrats will always have to urge dialogue, even when there is no response to it.

[Reporter] Agreed, but what mechanism will make it viable?

[Villanueva del Campo] I feel that the mechanism is the creation of a commission for peace, which I proposed when I returned from one of my trips abroad some 6 months ago; I then brought to the fore the Colombian case. The Colombian president could not sit at a table to hold talks with the political criminals who made up the guerrillas. Nevertheless, he sponsored a commission for peace made up of clergymen, university educators, and businessmen. This commission served as a bridge to attain this result in Colombia: of the five guerrilla forces, some with very violent and cruel methods, three have laid down their arms.

[Reporter] Would this be a commission formed outside the government?

[Villanueva del Campo] Right, because the government, and I agree with President Belaunde on this issue, cannot hold talks with those ignoring the law, ignoring the government. But if we believe that democracy means dialogue, and since a dictatorship means a monologue, then we have no other choice but to find ways to make these prospects viable. And, (?I would tell you) that if they refuse to hold a dialogue then a persistent, tenacious, stubborn willingness to hold a dialogue will convince them. [end recording]

STATE WORKERS STRIKE PARTIALLY SUCCESSFUL

Percovich on Strike

PY061328 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The general indefinite strike called by the so-called Intersectorial Confederation of State Workers [CITE], whose leaders are requesting an 810,000-sol monthly salary increase and that the basic salary be raised to 300,000 soles, was partially observed on the first day.

In several ministries and public agencies there was full attendance, while in others the strike was observed in various degrees.

On the morning of 5 March, groups of strikers provoked some disturbances in Pizarro Square but they were dispersed by the police.

Concerning the demands made by the CITE, Prime Minister Luis Percovich has stated that it is impossible to meet such demands because they are equivalent to 50 percent of the national budget and he asked the CITE for a truce.

Union Official on Strike

PY061329 Lima Televisora Lima in Spanish 0400 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Excerpt] CITE Secretary General Raul Caballero has stated that the stoppage has been successful and that he held a preliminary meeting with the labor minister today.

AIRPORT WORKERS BEGIN INDEFINITE STRIKE

PY062312 Paris AFP in Spanish 1935 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] Lima, 6 Mar (AFP) -- The 3,000 employees of Peru's 36 airports this afternoon declared an indefinite general strike. Only the 36 air traffic controllers are continuing to work.

The strikers demand salary hikes. This strike must be added to the stoppage of the customs and airport employees, who went on an indefinite strike on 5 March. They and many other state employees are asking for a 750,000-soi ($100) salary hike.

A Venezolana Internacional de Aviacion S.A. [VIASA] plane arrived in Lima just after the strike began and it was looked after by the air traffic controllers and members of the Peruvian Air Force, who are replacing the strikers.

LIMA MAYOR THREATENS STRIKERS WITH LOSS OF JOBS

PY061301 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] Lima Mayor Alfonson Barrantes today warned that workers who violate administrative rules and regulations will be fired. He added that the requests for salary increases must be commensurate with the capability of the institutions.

DEFENSE MINISTER ON ROLE OF ARMED FORCES

PM070931 Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 4 Mar 85 p 2

[Interview with Defense Minister Juan Vicente Chiarino by Santiago Palacios in Montevideo -- date not given]

[Text] Montevideo -- "If they (the military) are counting on an easygoing attitude on my part, they are mistaken," new Minister of National Defense Dr Juan Vicente Chiarino (an 83-year-old attorney, former parliamentarian, journalist, and current chairman of the minority conservative Civic Union Party) stated in an interview granted to LA VANGUARDIA.

Nevertheless, he also disclosed that he will act cautiously, since the change of government will certainly traumatize the Uruguayan Armed Forces. The secretary of state [as published] warned that spectacular measures should not be expected at the start of his term.

[Palacios] What significance do you attach to the public statement recently made by Army Commander in Chief Hugo Medina, correcting previous remarks about the possibility of the Armed Forces organizing another coup, if the political situation of 1973 is again repeated?

[Chiarino] Medina's clarification seemed to me opportune and necessary, because his remarks really were unfortunate, but I deem the matter to be closed.

[Palacios] In your opinion, did General Mendes speak for himself, or did he reflect the views of the Uruguayan military as a whole?

[Chiarino] I do not believe that there is among them a widespread feeling in favor of the seizure of power by force again. It is possible that at an individual level someone may desire a coup, as was the case in Argentina and in Spain, too, but their actions, although they sometimes seem strident, do not achieve the results their perpetrators hope.

I have the impression that the experience has been very useful to them. They have realized their mistakes. I believe that sever self-criticism has been made within the Armed Forces. Their members know that public opinion is against them, and that this was not the politicians' doing but something that has occurred spontaneously.

There is awareness among the military of the difficult national situation, for which they have no solutions. This has led them to fear their ineffectiveness. We in the ministry will have to handle them cautiously, with firmness in defense of principles, but also cautiously. Let the people who are now becoming carried away and demanding spectacular measures immediately count me out.

This is a special ministry, whose task cannot be compared with any other's. In the other ministries, on the other hand, there will be major and reasonable changes, as happens with any regime replacing another.

The problem is that, in the specific area of the Ministry of National Defense, the situation will change radically. The military will move from being in power to performing the duties assigned to them by the Constitution, and nothing else.

[Palacios] Your appointment seemed to cause satisfaction in military ranks. Does this reassure or worry you?

[Chiarino] As far as I am concerned, the military are not enemies. I have had quite a lot of dealings with them, especially in the course of the political negotiations conducted last year. There were frequent private talks in small groups. The commanders in chief of the three services know my viewpoints and my nature. I do not know whether that account is true, I hope so, but if they are counting on an easygoing attitude on the part of the Ministry of Defense, they are mistaken.

[Palacios] The Uruguayan political parties have demanded a drastic cut in the military budget, which over the past few years has far exceeded the budget allocated to public health or education. Will this be one of the government's first measures?

[Chiarino] Undoubtedly, but the changes cannot be made overnight. Regarding personnel, which I know is excessive according to the figures, you must realize that there cannot be a decree bearing my signature which would cast whole families into poverty at a time of high national unemployment. Armed Forces personnel could go to work in production activities, such as, in the Ministry of Public Works or the Ministry of Industry.

[Palacios] A senior Army chief said some time ago that the military personnel who committed "excesses" in repression should be investigated, and he accepted the possibility that they would stand trial (that is, in military courts) for their conduct during the years of the de facto government.

[Chiarino] There were people who dishonored their uniforms, and in that respect the recent statements by former Air Force Commander in Chief Brigadier Borad were very clear: Those people would be brought to justice and suffer the consequences.

[Palacios] How would you describe the attitude of King Juan Carlos and the Spanish Government on the military issue?

[Chiarino] From what we Uruguayan politicians discussed with the king, when he was kind enough to grant us an audience during his visit to Montevideo last year, I was left with the impression that he moves very cautiously. That man was a godsend for Spain.

[Palacios] Will you make use of the Spanish experience in the Armed Forces?

[Chiarino] The Spanish Embassy in Uruguay has been so kind as to send me a few days ago a copy of your country's military laws. They will serve as an inspiration to me in resolving the many problems which will arise.

LUSINCHI'S SOCIAL DEMOCRAT CABINET RESIGNS EN MASSE

PA061637 Paris AFP in Spanish 1627 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] Caracas, 6 Mar (AFP) -- Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi's ministers have resigned en masse today to permit the president to reshuffle his cabinet, Interior Minister Octavio Lepage has announced.

The single party cabinet of the Social Democrats has fulfilled its 5 years work and changes have been announced in several ministries on the occasion of the president's annual report to the Congress scheduled for 12 March.

TRADE UNION, COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER MURDERED

PA050403 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1408 GMT 4 Mar 85

[Text] Caracas, 4 Mar (EFE) -- Hemmy Croes, president of the United Central Organization of Venezuelan Workers, CUTV, was murdered last night in Caracas, according to information given to EFE by a spokesman.

According to the information, Croes was shot while getting out of his car in front of his house, after attending a plenum of the labor organization.

The initial reports reveal that he was attacked by unidentified men, who fired six times, at 2100 (0200 GMT).

Cores, in addition to being president of the CUTV, the second largest workers' union in the country, was a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Venezuela.

DEPUTY CITED ON ALLEGED COUP PLOT AGAINST HAITI

PA061640 Paris AFP in Spanish 1444 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] Caracas, 6 Mar (AFP) -- A clandestine Haitian exile movement, "led by Cuban President Fidel Castro and financed by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi" is training in Venezuela to topple the regime of Haitain President Jean-Claude Duvalier. This statement was made by extreme right-wing Venezuelan Deputy Alejandro Gomez Silva and quoted today in the Caracas newspaper "2001."

Gomez Silva said: These exiles "are training in Venezuela and Nicaragua to invade Haiti and topple Baby Duvalier; afterward, they will try to cause disturbances in the Dominican Republic."

According to the deputy, who cites several persons he claims are the movement's leaders, exiles are learning sabotage, terrorism, and guerrilla warfare techniques.

The group has a clandestine radio station and some of them received $10,000 to organize the training camp.

Gomez Silva was the 1978 presidential candidate of the extreme right-wing National Unity Front (FUN).

U.S. EMBASSY CONFIRMS DEA AGENT'S BODY FOUND

PA062331 Paris AFP in Spanish 2310 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] Mexico City, 6 Mar (AFP) -- The U.S. Embassy in Mexico City today confirmed that two bodies found yesterday are those of U.S. agent Enrique Camarena and Mexican pilot Alfredo Zavala. Camarena, a member of the Drug Enforcement Administration [DEA] of the United States, and Zavala, a pilot in the Mexican Agriculture Ministry, were kidnapped on 7 February 1985 in Guadalajara.

BANK ANNOUNCES INCREASE IN DAILY PESO SLIDE

FL062350 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1725 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] Mexico City, 6 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- The Bank of Mexico has announced that it has decided to increase the slide of the peso in relation to the dollar from 17 to 21 cents a day. It said the increase in the slide rate is in keeping with the policy of maintaining conditions favorable to increasing Mexico's sales abroad. The Central Bank explained that this measure originated as a consequence of the marked strengthening of the U.S. dollar, particularly against European currencies. This makes Mexican sales difficult not only in Europe but also in other countries like the United States, where European products are sent.

DE LA MADRID, ALFONSIN TO SIGN AGREEMENTS

FL061836 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1845 GMT 5 Mar 85

[Text] Mexico City, 5 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico and Argentina will sign 10 new trade and political cooperation agreements during the official visit to national territory by Argentine President Raul Alfonsin 25-27 March. The announcement was made by Argentine Ambassador to Mexico Facundo Ro Suarez, who added that his country will sell Mexico 1.6 million tons of grains, fertilizers, special equipment for oil drilling and recovery, and various other types of machinery. After stressing that relations between the two countries are the best ever, the diplomat said last year the trade balance favored Argentina by $100 million. In this repsect, he said the agreements Presidents Miguel de la Madrid and Raul Alfonsin will sign are directed at equalizing trade, which will amoung to $350 million this year.

FORMER PRESIDENT'S SON GETS PEMEX APPOINTMENT

FL051414 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0026 GMT 5 Mar 85

[Excerpt] PEMEX Director Mario Ramon Beteta today swore in Rodolfo Echeverria Ruiz as the company's new administrative technical subdirector. The appointment of Echeverria Ruiz, son of former President Luis Echeverria Alvarez, was made by President Miguel de la Madrid.

COSTA RICA

GUTIERREZ ON PARTICIPATION IN CONTADORA MEETING

FL060330 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0150 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Excerpts] San Jose, 5 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Costa Rica's Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez has affirmed that his country, upon the Contadora Group's decision, will participate in the heads of government meeting to sign the peace and cooperation proposal for Central America.

At a press conference, after hearing that the Nicaraguan Government had freed asylum seeker Jose Urbina Lara as anticipated, he said that this was a success for the Contadora Group and especially for the right to asylum, a Latin American legal institution.

Gutierrez also said that he would meet with Salvadoran and Honduran representatives on Thursday to continue the talks he began with the foreign ministers of these countries in San Jose.

EL SALVADOR

OFFICERS COMPLAIN OF POOR U.S. EQUIPMENT, CORRUPTION

PA061855 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1700 GMT 5 Mar 85

[Text] The Movement of Young and Progressive Officers today criticized the U.S. Government for delivering secondhand military equipment to our country and asked President Jose Napoleon Duarte for an exhaustive investigation of wrongdoing by senior Armed Forces officers.

The criticism was aired today in a communique released by the Movement of Young and Progressive Officers to the local and foreign media. In their communique, the officers refer to the transfer to Argentina of Colonel Julio Cesar Yanez, commander of the military detachment in Usulutan until 28 February. Yanez has been accused of misappropriating U.S. assistance funds.

According to the communique, several young officers have reported Yanez' wrong doing, saying that he has demonstrated not only ineptitude but a high degree of corruption. The communique adds: We have decided that it is necessary to end our silence and warn our superiors and the high command that we will no longer tolerate this type of behavior. They ask the U.S. Embassy for an explanation of Yanez' transfer and for closer supervision of the assistance reaching our country. They also ask for better equipment with which to fight terrorism.

The communique is addressed to President Duarte and asks him not to allow himself to be manhandled by elements who only seek personal benefits, and to either order an exhaustive investigation or appoint a commission to investigate the investments for the Usulutan reconstruction program.

A U.S. Embassy spokesman said: There are no comments in this regard but we are preparing some explanations for the Agency for International Development of the embassy.

GUERRILLAS BURN MUNICIPAL BUILDING IN USULUTAN

PA061918 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1700 GMT 5 Mar 85

[Report by correspondent Jorge Guadalupe Sorto via telephone from eastern El Salvador -- live or recorded]

[Excerpt] Taking the initiative over other media, we have the following report from San Miguel: At 1120 last night, the office of the mayor of Alegria, Usulutan Department, was set on fire. According to the report, some 15-20 heavily armed guerrillas tore down the doors, put several desks together, and set fire to the files. The municipal files were the first to be destroyed. The reports indicate that the insurgents watched part of the burning and said before leaving that they did this to boycott the 31 March elections, which they said will simply be another electoral farce.

The report from the scene confirms that the desks and other furniture, as well as the town hall building in Alegria were completely destroyed. It should be recalled that the guerrillas have also burned down town halls in Yamabal, Morazan Department; Yucuaiquin, La Union Department; and Santa Elena, Usulutan Department.

GUERRILLAS DERAIL TRAIN NEAR CAPITAL 4 MARCH

PA062008 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 5 Mar 85

[Text] Attention, Salvadoran people: Our guerrilla army continues to intensify its sabotage against the dictatorship's militarized trains. Radio Farabundo Marti has received an important war report signed by Commanders Pepe Martinez and David Gaviria. It states that on 4 March sapper units of the Rafael Aguinada Carranza Battalion and the Jacobo Campos Valle Column sabotaged the train that runs from Santa Ana to San Salvador. The action took place at Las Cabanitas canton in Apopa jurisdiction, north of San Salvador. The train jumped the track, paralyzing the movement of troops and the oligarchy's export produce. We are dealing blows to the Duarte dictatorship's war economy! Onward, brave fighters of the revolutionary armed forces! Defeat the oligarchy's power!

HONDURAS

FORUM ON DEMOCRACY CRITICIZES PRESENT GOVERNMENT

PA061727 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 4 Mar 85 p 5

[all quotation marks as published]

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- "The current government, because of its repeated violations of the Constitution and laws, has endangered the fragile democratization process." This is one of the conclusions of the forum, The Future of Democracy in Honduras, that took place in this capital at the end of January.

A document listing the resolutions and recommendations of the forum was distributed last Friday by the forum's organizers: the Study and Research Center for the Development of Honduras and the Honduran Bar Association. At that forum, in which leaders of labor, peasant, political, and professional orgnaizations participated, it was concluded that "the government of Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova can be characterized as constitutional but not as democratic."

One view that prevailed at the forum was that democracy within political parties is an essential requirement for party development. However, at this moment there is an antidemocratic and sectarian climate within the traditional parties. This climate has been encouraged by actions, laws, and rules that obstruct and oppose internal democracy. This situation has provided the frameowrk for fraudulent internal elections and has produced illegal and illegitimate authorities."

In the analysis of Honduran democracy and the human rights situation, it was agreed that the Liberal Party government has violated fundamental human rights. "Never in our country's recent history has there been a methodical physical extermination of political opponents. Presently there are more than 100 missing people.

The participants in the forum noted that human rights violations are evident not only at the political level but also at the economic and social levels, since the economic policies the current government has been implementing do not correspond to the country's interests.

For example, the document points out that foreign dependency has become increasingly acute in the past 4 years as a result of commitments that have produced a growing debt and have facilitated the unrestricted arrival of foreign capital.

Furthermore, the tax reform favors the interests of the transnationals and the demands of the IMF.

Regarding democracy, sovereignty, and peace, the participants agreed that the full exercise of national sovereignty excludes the yielding of territory by the establishment of foreign military bases and the continuous presence of foreign troops. One of the recommendations made to the government by the forum is that, to safeguard and strengthen the constitutionalization and democratization processes, it is necessary to reform the legal instruments that regulate electoral processes and political parties.

The participants believe it is an urgent necessity to convoke primary and internal elections to elect popular candidates; these elections must be supervised and guaranteed by an appropriate organization.

Well-known Hondurans participated in this forum: Alejandrina Bermudez de Villega, Manuel Acosta Bonilla, Jorge Illesca, Jorge Pontiturcio, Jorge Arturo Reina, Alba Alonso de Quezada, Napoleon Acevedo Granados, Andres Victor Artiles, Angel Antonio Mejia, Conrado Napki, German Leitelar, Leucilio Rivera, Ventura Ramos, and Alfredo Landaverde. More than 40 persons participated in the forum.

POLITICIANS CRITICIZED FOR ENCOURAGING COUP

PA042345 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 4 Mar 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] The return of Honduras to an institutional system, something for which the media worked and struggled even harder than politicians, should be a very important event of our time. When the Armed Forces quite ambiguously began to talk about returning power to the politicians, it was we, the journalists, who through radio and newspapers most strongly voiced the need for our country to return to a constitutional system, due to the fact that totalitarian situations were being unleashed in countries around us.

The unsettling operations to unbalance the democratic system forced us, the journalists and the media, to become the unconditional spokesmen for the politicians. During those early meetings among the leaders of the traditional parties, at which our politicians timidly spoke of demanding that the military surrender power, we had to get up very early, and at times go without sleep, to be able to bring to you the statements made by Pineda Gomez, Rodes Alvarado, Zuniga, Agustinos, and others, as a way to encourage the parties to begin recovering power in our country.

We are going back 12 years when the media, especially some newspapers and this radio station, Radio America, put forth their best efforts to convince the military and force the politicians to accept that the best thing for the country would be a return to the institutional system. Yet here we are, only 6 years since we recovered the sacred right of society to live in an environment based on law, and those same politicians, who yesterday were timid in demanding the return to an institutional system, today are involved in a stormy, internal, stubborn, and partisan struggle, and repeatedly ask the Armed Forces to intervene in the political matters of the civilians. This mistaken stance of certain politicians that we criticize casts an unfair shadow over the democratic process; it is a shadow that, for the sake of truth, must be eliminated as of now. In principle, considering the strictly legal fact that the military is apolitical, it is illogical that some deputies should scream for the Armed Forces to intervene and put an end to the differences born of sectarian struggle, especially among members of the Liberal Party. It seems that the price of a coup d'etat is taken very lightly by some politicians who had little or nothing to do with the struggle to recover the institutional system.

The repercussions that coups d'etat have had on Honduras have been enormous. Some politicians who did profit from these situations are the ones who would like to see the military back in power, but the price paid for these coups d'etat, especially by the Armed Forces, has been very high. Heading the country's government represented a dangerous erosion of the Armed Forces' stability. The military analysts have admitted this and do not recommend a coup d'etat.

If the military has its reservations and does not find it advisable to promote a break in the institutional order, it is not reasonable for politicians to ask the Army to get involved in the squabbling among Liberals. It is not the military that is thinking of violating the Constitution. Incredible as it may seem, the harebrained politicians are the ones prodding the Armed Forces to meddle in politics again. We, who struggled even more strenuously than the politicians for an immediate return to institutionalization, are concerned over this willfully confused situation. A new Army intrusion into the political scene is being justified with the blanket accusation that the president is manhandling not only his party but its traditional rival.

To avoid misinterpretations of this commentary, we repeat that even though we criticize the government's unwise and unfortunate actions, and even though we know it is not the great groverment we wanted, politicians are not justified in publicly calling for military intervention. The politicians who have lost their clout and power cannot stand being out in the cold and want to drag the whole country into it by publicly calling for a new coup.

The correct attitude of good Hondurans must be to defend the principle of legality and to denounce the constant violations of the law by the executive branch. The wily politicians who claim to be defending legality but are calling for a coup are climbers who lose their cool when their individual interests are at stake. We do not need this kind of politician in Honduras. Our nation's sacred interests cannot be entrusted to them because it is a proven fact that they always place their own convenience first. The politicians asking the military to step in must be punished according to the Constitution, the same as those who demonstrate obvious contempt for the sanctity of the Constitution.

NICARAGUA

$10,000 IN AID GIVEN TO CHILEAN QUAKE VICTIMS

PA052311 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 5 Mar 85

[Text] The Directorate of Information and Press of the Presidency of the Republic issued a communique stating that in view of the catastrophe currently affecting the Chilean people as a result of the violent earthquake that shocked the country on Sunday, 3 March, the Nicaraguan Government has decided to donate $10,000 through the Nicaraguan Red Cross. This modest sum is offered to help the Chilean victims suffering the same anguish that afflicted the Nicaraguan people in 1972, when a similar natural phenomenon destroyed the city of Managua. The communique concludes: Our harassed country wants to show its solidarity with its Chilean brothers through whatever help it can offer.

In fact, Minister of Health Lea Guido delivered a $10,000 check in the name of the revolutionary government to the acting president of the Nicaraguan Red Cross, Dr Alberto Barrios, a few minutes ago to help our Chilean brothers, victims of an earthquake. Minister Guido said that our government wished the donation could have been larger, but because of our present limitation due to the imperialist aggression that keeps us in a situation of war, for now the help must be reduced to the amount previously mentioned.

[Begin recording] [Guido] We want to inform our people that in the name of our government, our president, and the people of Nicaragua, and in view of the difficult situation afflicting the Chilean people as a result of the recent earthquake in that country, which has resulted in numerous deaths and much material damage, our government and people want to make a symbolic donation in solidarity with the Chilean people. Therefore, expressing the fraternal sentiments and solidarity of the Nicaraguan people with the Chilean people, we want to deliver the sum of $10,000 to the acting president of the Red Cross, Companero Alberto Barrios, to be submitted to the Chilean people through the Chilean Red Cross.

[Reporter] In addition to this $10,000 donation by the government, what other aid can the Ministry of Health offer to the Chilean brothers at this time?

[Guido] I would like to point out that at present, we as a nation are going through a very difficult situation, including the war, the economic crisis, and the permanent imperialist aggression. However, despite this situation, the solidarity of our people and government with the people of Latin America is expressed through this sacrifice we are making. The $10,000 is not excess money. No, we need it, but in this case we are expressing our solidarity and identification with the suffering of the Latin American peoples. If we had more, we would send millions instead of $10,000. The figure does not express the scope of our solidarity; it merely indicates our limitations. We need the medicine and clothing we have at present because we must take care of over 100,000 displaced Nicaraguans in various areas of the country as a result of counterrevolutionary actions. However, all of these factors do not prevent us from identifying with the Chilean people.

FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER ON COTTON EXPORTS

PA060319 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 5 Mar 85

[Text] Companero Alejandro Martinez Cuenca, foreign trade minister, reports on foreign currency received from Nicaraguan cotton exports:

[Begin recording] This year Nicaragua plans to export 360,000 bales of cotton. As was the case last year, this would make cotton the country's main export. Until 1 March production had been advancing rapidly and without major problems, except for minor problems which we expected given the aggressive situation we are experiencing. We have processed approximately 200,000 bales of cotton. We can confirm that most of those bales are already in ports or storerooms ready to be loaded on ships for export.

We have already exported approximately 36,000 bales of cotton, and we hope that this figure will increase significantly because ships tasked with exporting the product have already begun to arrive.

The 360,000 bales that Nicaragua will sell on the international market at an estimated average of $64 per quintal, will yield approximately $130 to $140 million. [end recording]

CESAR OPPOSES SAN JOSE DOCUMENT, CALLS FOR UNITY

FL062140 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1950 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] San Jose, 6 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Alfredo Cesar, director of National Recovery-Conciliation, said here today that the unity of forces in opposition to the Managua regime can only be brought about through serious political negotiations without discrimination.

At a press conference, Cesar said the different opposition organizations should demonstrate their interest in finding national conciliation so they can present a true democratic opposition to the FSLN.

Alfredo Cesar severely criticized the document issued here on Saturday by several opposition groups (the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordination Board, the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, and the Revolutionary Democratic Alliance) for recognizing the elections in Nicaragua as legitimate and asking to negotiate with that country's president, Daniel Ortega.

On repeated occasions, Cesar stressed, we have pointed out that the elections in Nicaragua were fraudulent and that in no way do we recognize Ortega as Nicaragua's head of state.

The director of National Recovery-Conciliation also rejected the inclusion of his organization in the signing of any document, espcially one linked to military forces, because, he said, the time has come to stop issuing documents and to take a position that permits the establishment of a Nicaraguan democratic force.

Alfredo Cesar, who was recently in Washington, said there are doubts in the U.S. Congress regarding the different positions of the opposition organizations, whether they call themselves civilian or military. In view of these doubts, the amount of money Congress offers will be reduced because real aid can only be obtained with a solid union.

The opposition leader criticized, although in a veiled manner, the position adopted by the anti-Sandinist organizations, military as well as civilian, discriminating against the southern force represented by Eden Pastora, because he is the revolutionary conscience of Nicaragua.

He also came out against future participation in the Nicaraguan Government by representatives of the former Somozist guard, saying dirty linen should not be aired in public and private discussions should be held to deny access to antidemocratic elements.

TIES HAILED BY SPAIN'S GONZALEZ IN URUGUAY

FL061505 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] Spanish President Felipe Gonzalez has said in Montevideo that his country's relations with Cuba are very good. I think they can always be intensified but relations between Spain and Cuba are very good, Gonzalez said in the Uruguayan capital where he attended Julio Maria Sanguinetti's presidential inauguration. The Spanish president also mentioned the Contadora Group's efforts. Gonzalez said it is necessary to contribute to Central America's peace process through the resumption of a permanent dialogue between the United States and Nicaragua.

SOVIET CONSTRUCTION MINISTER, DELEGATION ARRIVE

FL062302 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] A high-level Soviet delegation led by Construction Minister Georgiy A. Karavayev has arrived in Cuba at the invitation of Jose A. Lopez Moreno, member of the Central Committee, vice president of the Council of Ministers, and minister of construction, who went to welcome the delegation. The group will tour the Provinces of Cienfuegos and Santiago de Cuba, where they will visit industrial and social projects being built under the revolution with the cooperation of the Soviet Union.

MINISTRY CONDEMNS ISRAELI ACTIONS IN LEBANON

PA061434 Havana International Service in Spanish 1414 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] The Cuban Foreign Ministry has issued a statement condemning the acts of genocide that Israeli occupation troops are carrying out against the poeple of southern Lebanon. It stressed that the Israeli Government has once more flagrantly violated the UN Charter and all the resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council that demand the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of these troops from the Lebanese occupied territories.

The document criticized the support of the Zionist government by the United States for its aggressive policy and emphasized that such a situation greatly increases the danger of a new war in the region.

In conclusion, the Cuban Foreign Ministry warns of the urgent need to halt the detestable Zionist massacring of the Lebanese people.

FOURTH FMC CONGRESS OPENS 5 MAR IN HAVANA

82 Nations Send Delegates

FL011515 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Excerpt] About 170 delegates from 82 countries will represent more than 100 women's organizations at the Fourth Congress of the Federation of Cuban Women, [FMC], which will be inaugurated on 5 March at Havana's Palace of Conventions. As part of the congress, a solidarity commission will meet that will study the situation of women worldwide. The commission will approve a solidarity resolution citing Cuban women's firm support of those women who struggle for a better life for their people.

Guests Arrive

FL011336 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] Representatives of women's organizations in different countries have begun to arrive by airplane in Havana to attend the Fourth Congress of the Federation of Cuban Women, which will start on 5 March at Havana's Palace of Conventions.

Among the first foreign delegates to arrive were (Fan Edelmann), vice president of the International Democratic Federation of Women and co-president of the National Union of Argentine Women, and the Chilean, (Nora Maluenda), vice president of the Women's Commission of the Socialist International.

Officials Preside at Opening

FL051354 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1220 GMT 5 Mar 85

[Text] The Fourth Congress of the Federation of Cuban Women, which begins today, had as a preamble the inauguration of the "Companera" show at the Cuba Pavilion by Dora Carcano, member of the party Central Committee and secretary general of the Federation of Cuban Women. Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, Politburo member; Vilma Espin, alternate member of the Politburo and FMC president; and Jose Ramirez Cruz, alternate member of the Politburo, presided over the ceremony.

Castro Attends Congress Opening

FL052348 [Editorial Report] Havana Television Service in Spanish at 1857 GMT on 5 March carries live coverage of the inauguration of the Fourth Congress of the Federation of Cuban Women at Havana's Palace of Conventions.

Color television coverage begins with a wide shot of the interior of the Palace of Conventions as the station announcer gives background information on the congress. At 1859 GMT, Fidel Castro enters the hall and remains standing, acknowledging applause; full shots of Fidel Castro alternate with wides shots of public. At 1901 GMT, a fanfare of trumpets followed by band music opens the ceremony. A color guard parades the Cuban flag and antoher flag and mounts the stage, where the flags are place one on each side of the podium. At 1903 GMT, an unidentified woman reads a list of names of Cuban women, after which the camera pans the audience, stopping for one close-up shot of Castro.

At 1906 GMT an unidentified woman comments on Fidel's presence. The camera then focuses on Juan Almeida, Pedro Miret Prieto, Jesus Montane, leaders of the Union of Young Communists [UJC], Armando Acosta, Roberto Veiga, and others. At 1908 GMT, an unidentified female speaker praises the performance of the Federation of Cuban Women and congratulates Cuban women on their labors, their creativity, and their preparations for this fourth congress. She says Cuban women will know how to do what the revolution expects of them, will carry out the tasks of the revolution, according to the commander in chief's guidelines, and will combat negligence and waste. She then briefly reviews the preparatory work for this congress, recognizing the assistance and work, the individual and collective effort. She thanks the mass organizations for their contribution and mentions the hundreds of thousands of women who have joined the militia, attended classes, received military training, and prepared for a people's war. She moves on to the matter of electing the president of the congress. The list of officials is unanimously approved.

The speaker then yields the podium to Marta de Pres, who presents another federation of Cuban women official who reads the opening remarks on the existence of a quorum and the composition of the congress: groups of delegates, ages, percentage of party members, UJC members, militia members, and so forth. The camera remains on the speaker.

At 1939 GMT Vilma Espin is introduced and begins spaking. She reviews the work of the past 5 years, the revolutionary support Cuban women have given the revolution and their bravery and steadfastness in facing all difficulties, including the threat of foreign aggression. She describes their success in advancing the cause of Cuban women and in achieving the exercise of equal rights. She reviews the activities of the FMC since it was founded 25 years ago, praising the performance of its membefs who, faced with great difficulties, have achieved great success and progress. She says women in Cuba will never again be sexual objects, passive, and discriminated against, and cites the contribution of women to the national economy and to the achievements of the revolution.

She refers to the report of the third congress of the Federation of Cuban Women and expresses her satisfaction at the progress made in the intervening 5-year period. She says 1,101,000 Cuban women are working in production and services and stresses the fact that this represents a 7-percent increase over 1980. As he reads her report on the achievements of women, the camera pans the audience.

Vilma Espin reviews the work of women in Moa, at the Nuevitas cement factory, and in the construction of the Cienfuegos nuclear power plant. She describes the work of women in agriculture, in voluntary work in the health sector, and in the bautification of the nation. She reviews the increasing access of women to jobs from which they were formerly excluded, sometime by well-intentioned paternalism.

Vilma Espin cites the discriminatory attiude of women against other women and stresses the need to further educate Federation of Cuban Women members afflicted with such attitudes, and to develop further the revolutionary conscience of Cuban women.

Espin then goes on to call for the media, through the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television, to develop better educational programming which better reflects women's role in society. She highligts the service provided by the social workers in their work with children who have emotional and behavioral problems.

A 50-minute recess is called at 2050 GMT. The event reopens at 2148 GMT and Vilma Espin continues her opening speech. She emphasizes the Federation of Cuban Women's role on the international level of attending, hosting, and participating in events, seminars, conferences, and congresses both in Cuba and in other socialist countries. She says that work with Caribbean and Latin American organizations has been greatly consolidated. She then notes the increased ties between the FMC and the Cuban Armed Forces. Espin adds that there is a need to increase the ideological awareness of Cuban women.

Espin ends her speech at 2243 GMT. A musical and ballet presentation is then offered in the auditorium and the coverage of the FMC's fourth congress ends at 2258 GMT.

Veiga Makes Statement

FL062330 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 6 Mar 85

[Text] Roberto Veiga, alternate member of the Politburo and secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC], has stated that the complete victory of the revolution would not be possible if it were not for women. Veiga made that statement while expressing the CTC's greetings to the Fourth Congress of the Federation of Cuban Women. Veiga added that participation by working women in the activities of every workers collective, emulations, battles for educational and technical excellence, and in defense and internationlist tasks is exemplary and admirable.

Castro, Del Valle Speak

FL070048 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] Delegates to the Fourth Congress of the Federation of Cuban Women are currently studying the possibility of fathers participating in the care of hospitalized children, and current difficulties, as well as aspects that can contribute to effective participation by men.

Commander in Chief Fidel Castro mentioned these subjects several times. He analyzed the advantages of paternal care for children. He also mentioned some existing restrictions, which he said should be studied.

Public Health Minister Sergio del Valle, speaking to a full session of the congress, said studies are currently being done on men participating as companions to hospitalized children and adults. He also pointed out that in new hospital regulations, which will soon be discussed, there are no restrictions on participation by men as companions. Del Valle stressed that an in-depth study should be made, in conjunction with the Federation of Cuban Women in order to create the necessary conditions for men to perform these services.

'OUR AMERICA' ON NICARAGUA'S PEACE PROPOSALS

PA061615 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 5 Mar 85

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The revolutionary Government of Nicaragua has once again taken steps to reduce political tensions in Central America and to find negotiated solutions to the crisis in the area. Last Wednesday in Managua, Nicaraguan President Commander Daniel Ortega announced an important proposal in this direction. It includes important political, military, and diplomatic aspects systematically used by the United States to justify its financing of the Somozist counterrevolutionary groups and to boycott the Contadora Group's peacemaking efforts in Central America. Commander Daniel Ortega declared that Nicaragua will relinquish the cooperation of 100 Cuban military instructors and that the first 50 instructors could leave the country in May. He also suggested an indefinite moratorium on the purchase of weapons, and stated the government's willingness to resolve its differences with Costa Rica and allow a U.S. congressional bipartisan commission to visit the country and confirm the defensive nature of Nicaraguan weapons.

In this manner Nicaragua, the country being attacked, has taken the first step toward achieving one of the objectives proposed by the Contadora Group in its Document on Peace and Cooperation in Central America, the complete withdrawal of foreign military advisers from the region, and the search for conciliatory viewpoints that will smooth the way toward regional peace.

The Nicaraguan Government's declaration stresses that these measures should contribute to paving the way for the United States to renew its talks with the Sandinist government in the Mexican city of Manzanillo, and stop its request for additional U.S. funds to finance the counterrevolutionary groups that are attacking Nicaragua from Honduras and Costa Rica.

The Nicaraguan proposal has prompted many demonstrations of support and solidarity in various areas of the world. The most important European and Latin American news media have stressed the importance of the Sandinist revolution's peace proposal and some U.S. political sectors have accepted the Nicaraguan stance as a sign that the Nicaraguan Government is searching for a peaceful solution to the regional crisis.

However, the U.S. Government is trying to undermine the importance of the Nicaraguan proposal and continues to interpret each of these offers as a display of weakness on the part of the Sandinist revolution and the result of Washington's policy of force and intervention. The Nicaraguan proposal coincides with an unprecedented U.S. aggressive and political escalation against the Sandinst revolution. Washington was silently preparing for an alleged uniting of Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries to try to force the U.S. Congress to resume the financial and military aid to the Somozists and other mercenaries. Once again using Costa Rica as a key instrument to disrupt any peaceful solution in Central America, the United States organized a meeting of the former Somoza guardsmen and other counterrevolutionaries to unite [4-second break in transmission] Sandinists. This united group, which has failed on several occasions, was Washington's proof that aid to the counterrevolutionaries, through the CIA, would finally achieve certain results. According to the White House this would prevent the United States from directly intervening in Nicaragua.

However, before an already reticent U.S. Congress, the Nicaraguan Government's offer could only strengthen the U.S. congressmen's decision to deny the U.S. Government's request while at the same time injecting new life into the Contadora initiative that Washington has constantly torpedoed.

As the U.S. professor Arthur Schlesinger said in an article published in THE NEW YORK TIMES: Just as President Lyndon Johnson's dream for a "Great Society" died in Vietnam, Ronald Reagan's "Second U.S revolution" will die in Nicaragua.

SOVIET OIL SHIPMENT FOR NICARAGUA NOTED

PA061911 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Mar 85

[Text] Two days ahead of schedule, as an expression of solidarity, the workers of the Baltic Naval Company in Leningrad filled with oil the gigantic reservoirs of the ship [name indistinct], which immediately left for the port of Corinto in Nicaragua. Soviet tankers with oil for Nicaragua sail twice a week from Leningrad to the port of Corinto. There has been a fuel shortage in that country in recent weeks, the results of U.S. pressure which blocked the arrival in Nicaragua of crude oil from Ecuador. The situation in Nicaragua due to this economic aggression by the United States has been resolved thanks to the solidarity and support demonstrated by Mexico, Cuba, and the Soviet Union, which immediately supplied fuel to Sandino's homeland.

BARBADOS

TRADE, AVIATION TALKS END WITH TRINIDAD, TOBAGO

FL061756 Bridgetown CANA in English 2009 GMT 5 Mar 85

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 5, CANA -- Preparatory talks between top government officials of Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago, leading up to a proposed heads of government summit, have ended here but a meeting of foreign ministers set for Friday has been postponed. The state-run Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) radio station quoted Barbados Foreign Minister Louis Tull as saying the planned meeting with his Trinidadian counterpart Errol Mahabir had been put off because Mahabir had pressing business to attend to. Mahabir was appointed to his present post from the Labour Ministry in a Cabinet reshuffle last week. He and Tull held a first round of talks in Port-of-Spain on February 12.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman told CANA the delegation of Trinidadian officials, headed by Chariman of the Standing Bilateral Committee on Air Services Reginald Dumas, was returning home today. The talks were held yesterday. The spokesman said the officials would report to their governments and a decision would be taken on whether a further officials meeting was necessary or ministerial talks could go ahead. Trade and aviation matters were expected to have been the main talking points between the two Caribbean Community (Caricom) countries yesterday. Fishing, energy, and financial matters were also on the agenda.

JAMAICA

CENTRAL BANK TO MAINTAIN TIGHT CREDIT POLICY

FL061746 Bridgetown CANA in English 1928 GMT 5 Mar 85

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 5, CANA -- The Jamaica Central Bank will this year maintain its tight credit policy to hold down demand in the face of the country's continuing foreign exchange crisis, a senior official indicated here. The fall out of foreign exchange earnings will require a continuation of tight demand management to keep aggregate demand with foreign exchange availability, said deputy governor of (Central) Bank of Jamaica, Dr Owen Jefferson.

The Edward Seaga government, in line with an International Monetary Fund (IMF) austerity programme, last year introduced tight credit measures to keep domestic credit expansion to the private sector within 12 per cent. But critics argued that it put too much pressure on the largely cash-weak business operations which depended on bank overdrafts to maintain their day-to-day operations and for expansion. The result of this, they argued, was stultification and job losses. But Jefferson, speaking Monday at a function of the Building Societies Association, said: We have to avoid falling into the trap of believing that in a situation of foreign exchange shortage we can get an increase in real output simply by expanding the supply of credit. The likely result, he said, would be additional demand pressure on the supply of foreign exchange with further depreciation in the exchange rate and attendant increase in inflation. The Jamaican dollar, following a series of devaluations, has moved from a rate of J1.78 to one U.S. in November 1983 to the present rate of J5.06 to one. The government had indicated that there would be an easing of the austerity measures this year, but further pressure has been put on the economy by the recent indefinite closure of the Alcoa alumina refinery with a loss of U.S. 40 million dollars in foreign exchange and another J120 million dollars to the national treasury. The situation could be more grim because of the uncertainty over the future of another refinery owned jointly by Kaiser, Reynolds and Atlantic Richfield.

Jefferson, underlining Jamaica's difficulties, noted that during the 1984-85 fiscal year which closes at month end, the country had to pay U.S. 470 million dollars to service its U.S. 3 billion dollar debt. This was in effect 32 per cent of total foreign exchange earnings, and after allowances had been made for refinancing an estimated U.S. 300 million dollars in commercial and bilateral loans last year. Debt servicing and petroleum imports alone, Jefferson stressed, took up 57 per cent of earnings from goods and services. It has now become clear that the country cannot afford to continue to borrow at the rate to which we have become accustomed, the Central Bank deputy governor said. In 1973 Jamaica had a foreign debt of a little over 150 million dollars and this by the end of 1980 had moved to around 1.5 billion dollars. Since then it has doubled.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

MINISTER PROPOSES REFINING CARICOM SUGAR

FL052520 Bridgetown CANA in English 2343 GMT 4 Mar 85

[By Debra Ransome]

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, March 4, CANA -- Trinidad and Tobago said today it wanted to refine Caribbean Community (Caricom) sugar. State Enterprises Minister Ronald Williams made the proposal at the opening of a four-day sugar technologists conference being hosted by the state-owned sugar company Caroni. I have asked the chairman of Caroni to explore with its partners in the Caribbean sugar industry feasible arrangements under which the enlarged refining capacity which Caroni brought on stream in 1984 could be mobilised to supply the white sugar needs of at least the Caricom region, Williams said. Williams said this was part of the plan to revitalise the loss-making sugar industry here. He noted that the World Bank, because of the severe problems faced by the industry, had recommended its abandonment. He said there were strong measures planned to rehabilitate and diversify sugar. There will clearly be substantial dislocation, the minister added, but structural changes must be introduced in the way the company now operates. There is no other way.

Williams told representatives of the regional sugar industry that Caribbean sugar must don the mantle of self-reliance through the appliance of greater amounts of the relevant science and technology to all phases of production. Above all, the industry cannot continue to siphon away, through its inherent inefficiencies and poor productivity, the income which other sectors generate. He said most of the sugar producers in the Caribbean are losing money. Government had been called upon to provide financial support to the industry, money which they can ill afford, Williams said. The men and women in the sugar industry of the Caribbean have no choice but to become increasingly self-reliant, make a reasonable contribution to living standards in the countries which produce sugar for export, and walk the earth with pride.

The minister conceded that despite regional attempts to widen the respective countries export base, sugar was still an important sector. At the present time of foreign exchange shortages it is necessary to include in the balance of reality that the sugar industry is a very important source of net foreign exchange earnings, quite apart from its contributions to employment. Williams looked at the changes which the regional sugar industry has faced from 1969 when he said the industry was moderately profitable to today when in almost every sugar producing country in the Caribbean, it is a large loser. The minister said that the industry today could no longer rely on preferential arrangements with the European Community (EEC), it must expect lower returns due to the decline in the European currencies against the dollar, and must now face the recently-imposed United States import levy on sugar. These restrictions, he said, were further aggravated by internal problems in the industry such as high production costs, a failure to improve cane yields, declining extraction rates, and rising labour costs.